

REMARKS

This is a Response to the Final Office Action dated January 5, 2006, and the Advisory Action dated April 7, 2006. Upon entry of this Response, 23, 27 and 32 will be pending in this Application. Claims 11-34, and 42-43 are pending. Claims 11-25, 28-34, and 42-43 are rejected, and claims 26, 27 and 32 are objected to. In response, claims 11 – 22, 24-26, 28-31, 33-35, 42 and 43 are cancelled, without prejudice; claims 23, 27 and 32 are amended; and the following remarks are submitted. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Applicant hereby confirms the substance of a telephone conference with the Examiner April 21, 2006. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's time and his assistance in response to Applicant's questions. Applicant previously filed a Response to Final Office Action on March 27, 2006, in which Applicant submitted three (3) new claims. The Examiner in his Advisory Action dated April 7, 2006, indicated that the claims contained limitations that would need further consideration and/or search. As the Examiner explained, Applicants claims were not in compliance with the rules for amendments, and appeared to set forth new matter not previously presented. While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's explanation, Applicant hereby submits amended claims, which Applicant believes are made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121, and the Examiner's requirements.

In the outstanding Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 26-27 and 32 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and rejected claims 11-25, 28-34, and 42-43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takada et al. (US 6278813).

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant has amended claims 23, 27 and 32. Claim 23 is rewritten to include the limitations of claim 26. Claim 27 is rewritten to depend from claim 23 instead of claim 26. Finally, claim 32 is rewritten to include the limitations set forth in the base claim that was claim 23 prior to the instant amendment, and the limitations set forth in intervening claims 28 and 29. No new matter or changes have been included in these claims. As Applicant has complied with

the Examiner's requirements for the allowable subject matter, allowance of claims 23, 27 and 32 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

The Examiner rejected Claims 11-25, 28-34, and 42-43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takada et al. (US 6278813). In response, Applicant has cancelled 11-25, 28-34, and 42-43 without prejudice, which renders this rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and requests such allowance the remaining claims. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney. This Response is filed along with a Petition for One-Month Extension Of Time, and the associated one-month extension fee. Applicant believes that no additional fees are due. However, in the event that fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any applicable fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,

/William P. Smith/

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